Mathias Assails Charge On Intelligence Leaks

By Harold J. Logan
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Sen. Charles McC. Mathias Jr., (R-Md.) said yesterday Defense Secretary James Schlesinger's recent statement that leaks from congressional intelligence committees are threatening national security is a "loose charge" that "is so wrong that it has to be denied, it has to be refuted."

In a Baltimore press conference, Mathias, a member of the Senate committee investigating the CIA, said there have been "no significant leaks that would affect the national security" from his committee. He said leaks that have occurred "may just as well have come from the executive branch as from any congressional source."

Mathias said he was reacting to news stories detailing a taped television interview between Schlesinger, a former CIA director, and Sen. James R. Buckley (Cons-R-N.Y.).

When asked by Buckley if there were reason to fear that leaks have undercut the willingness of foreign governments to work with American intelligence agencies, Schlesinger replied there is "more than reason to fear."

"I think that we recognize that the sources of information coming into the CIA have been dramatically reduced in both liaison relationships and in relation to the willingness of foreign governments to work with our intelligence people, and that is an inevitable result of these kinds of investigations," Schlesinger said.